

REMARKS

The Official Action has required the election of one of the following groups:

Group I, Claims 1, 3, 5-9 and 14-17, drawn to an iodonium compound;

Group II, Claims 1-9 and 14-17, drawn to a sulfonium compound; and

Group III, Claims 10-13 and 18, drawn to a sulfonium compound.

In responding to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group II, Claims 1-9 and 14-17, drawn to a sulfonium compound.

The above election is being made with traverse. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and examination of all currently pending claims would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. Section 803 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure states that “[I]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request examination of all currently pending claims.

In addition, sulfonium compounds as defined by independent Claim 10 are encompassed by general formula (1) of Claim 1. Moreover, as defined in Claim 1, Ar^1 and Ar^2 can mutually bond together with A^+ to form a group possessing a cyclic structure with 3-8 atoms and P can represent the group $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^3$, wherein R^3 can represent a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1-20 carbon atoms, etc. Further, the Office Action has indicated that compounds of Groups II and III are classified in the same subclass in the PTO classification schedule (*i.e.*, Class 568, Subclass 18). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that search and examination of Groups II and III would not

pose an undue burden on the Examiner. It is therefore respectfully requested that at least Groups II and III should be examined together.

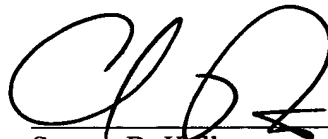
In responding to the restriction requirement, the Applicants take no position regarding whether the claims of the various groups identified in the Official Action define distinct inventions.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. If any issues remain, however, which may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' counsel, Christopher W. Raimund, at (202) 326-0253.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD



Steven B. Kelber
Registration No. 30,073
Attorney of Record



901 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Suite 850
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone No. (202) 326-0428
Facsimile No. (202) 326-0778

Christopher W. Raimund
Registration No. 47,258